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# CONFERENCE *connection*

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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 15, 2022

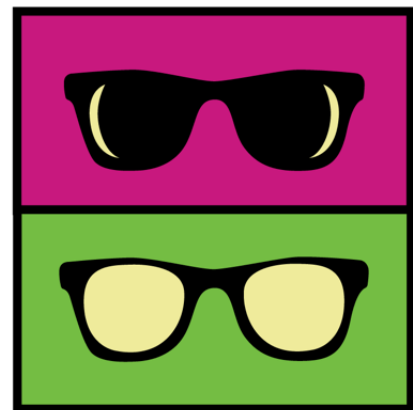
## ZOOM Registration for Annual Meeting Extended

If you missed the deadline to register for Annual Meeting, you can still register to attend Annual Meeting on Zoom! Registration for online attendance at Annual Meeting has been extended until Wednesday, June 22, 2022. You can attend from anywhere: your home, church, or even the beach!

Registration for attending in person has closed as we had to submit final food numbers, but you can join in all the fun still by joining on Zoom!

More details and registration info here: <https://www.secucc.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting-2022/>

**REFLECTING  
ON OUR PAST**



**FOCUSING  
ON OUR FUTURE**

## News from the Conference Office

### Meet Me in Montgomery

*by Rev. Kim Wood*

In just one short week, I will be traveling to Montgomery, Alabama for my first Annual Meeting as Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference UCC. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee and SECUCC Staff Team will spend a couple of days setting up and making final preparations for our first hybrid (in-person and virtual) annual meeting in our history together as a conference. And then, on Friday, June 24 at noon, the long-awaited fun begins!



This year's Annual Meeting, **REFLECTING ON OUR PAST, FOCUSING ON OUR FUTURE**, has been in the works for 3 years now. We were originally scheduled to meet in Montgomery in 2020, but Covid-19 prohibited gathering in person at that time, as well in 2021. But now, Montgomery is in our sights, with many of the original plans coming to fruition, as well as some new ones. For instance:

- Rev. Traci Blackmon will (finally) be our keynote speaker and our opening worship preacher. She will also spend time during the workshop blocks with clergywomen of color, and later with youth
- Youth gathering from across the Conference will immerse themselves in the impactful history of the city while exploring what it means to be the church in this day and time
- An ice cream social will cap off Friday's activities

Of course, there will be new pieces and changes, as well, such as:

- Workshops and plenary sessions that are available both in-person and virtually
- A new meeting site – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is providing space for us to gather since Community Congregational Church is currently faced with some challenges to their campus

It is important that all our congregations and ministry settings are represented by delegates, our authorized ministers are present, and non-voting visitors and people discerning ministry participate. That is how we best learn, grow, and respond to God's call together. If you have already registered, either for on-site or virtual attendance, I'm looking forward to seeing you soon. And if you haven't yet signed up, there's still time to register as a virtual attendee (use the link included in this Conference Connection until June 12). However you attend, I hope you'll meet me in Montgomery!

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## Budget Hearing is Monday, June 20

A hearing on the 2022-23 budget, which will be presented at Annual Meeting, is being held on Monday, June 20 at 7:00 pm Eastern / 6:00 pm Central time via Zoom.

Join Rev. Jennifer Baker (Finance and Stewardship Committee Chair) and Michael Bowen (Conference Treasurer) as they present the budget and answer your questions, and engage in dialogue. All are welcome!

Can't make it on June 20? Don't worry! We will also offer a Budget Hearing as one of the workshops at Annual Meeting. You must register to attend the Budget Hearing. [Click here to register](#).

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## New UCC pastoral letter, toolkit urge church to speak out for trans, nonbinary people

The [Council of Conference Ministers](#), the [Officers of the United Church of Christ](#), and the [UCC Open and Affirming Coalition](#) have joined together to publish a pastoral letter addressing the attacks on people of transgender or nonbinary experience across the United States.

These leaders in the United Church of Christ *"want every person of*

*transgender or nonbinary binary experience to know this: **you are beloved by God**. No earthly power can separate you from God's love. God created you perfectly: your gender identity or expression is God's gift to you and the world."*

The letter was written by Rev. Andy Lang with editing collaboration from Rev. Mike Schuenemeyer, Rev. Phil Hodson, and our own Conference Minister, Rev. Kim Wood.

The UCC also has a new toolkit of worship, social media, and other resources to help local churches welcome and speak out for trans and nonbinary people. [The toolkit can be found here](#).

As Pride month begins in many states, we are reminded that "coming out" is a powerful moral force that transforms lives. This is true not only for LGBTQ+ people but also for churches. This is a time when congregations are called to come out to show the world that love is stronger than hate.

- **Read the letter:** [https://www.ucc.org/home/trans-nonbinary\\_pastoral\\_letter\\_june2022/](https://www.ucc.org/home/trans-nonbinary_pastoral_letter_june2022/)
- **Download the toolkit:** <https://thesocialpresskit.com/ucc#transgender-and-non-binary-justice>
- **Download a copy of the letter:** <https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Trans-Nonbinary-Pastoral-Letter-from-CCM-UCC-Officers-ONA-Coalition-2022-06-08.pdf>

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## Clergy Zoom Connections for June

- **An Hour of Conversations and Prayer**  
Tuesday, June 21, 28 - 11:00 a.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m. Central); Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/479440102>
  - **Live Harp Meditations for Ministers**  
Thursday, June 16 - 1:00 p.m. Eastern (12:00 noon Central)  
20 minutes of meditation with Celtic harp. Silent prayer and reflection following if desired, facilitated by Rev. Jean Norton.  
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96976838422>
  - **Especially for Specialized Ministers**  
Tuesday, June 28 - 9:30 a.m. Eastern (8:30 a.m. Central)  
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/354744689>
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## Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2022. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

### Week of June 19

- Midway Congregational UCC; Midway, Georgia
- 56th Annual Meeting, Southeast Conference
- Brenda Green
- Dorothy Owen
- Brice Thomas

### Week of June 26

- Evergreen Congregational UCC; Beachton, Georgia
- Leslie Brogan
- Shannon Michael Pater
- John Pearson
- Merianna Harrelson

## Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Montgomery AL; First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville TN; First United Church, Belvidere TN; Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill TN; Peace Congregational, Clemson SC; Deer Lodge Congregational Church, Deer Lodge TN; Brookemeade Congregational, Nashville TN



## News from the Wider Church

### UCC Summit to Address the Post-Pandemic Church

Registration is now open for The Space Between: The Emerging Church in a Post-Pandemic World, A Summit to be held by the United Church of Christ National Setting September 19-21, 2022 virtually and on site in St. Louis, MO. The summit, designed to bring together creative minds to architect a future for the church in a post-pandemic world, is open to clergy and laity across the UCC. If you are interested in participating in this exciting event, go to <https://cvent.me/2EGnL1>. Registration is now open!



## Trainings and Conferences



### 2022 Southern Region Women's Retreat

"God of Mystery – Spirit of Hope" is the theme of this year's retreat, held

October 14 – 16, 2022 at Camp Weed & Cerveney Conference Center in Live Oak, Florida.

The retreat will be held in a beautiful northern Florida setting on a small lake, the same location where we met in 2013. It has a lovely chapel looking out on the water, nice two-bed rooms with private baths, an inspiring outdoor patio area with rocking chairs overlooking the lake, a large dining room with great food, and trails through the woods. A perfect spot to retreat from our everyday lives.

If you value camaraderie, making new friends and reconnecting with old ones, learning new skills, and listening to God in a natural setting you will want to join us for the weekend. More details at [uccfla.org/floridauccwomen](http://uccfla.org/floridauccwomen).

## Help Wanted

### 2022 Southern Region Women's Retreat

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ (PUCC) in Marietta, Georgia is searching for a part-time Music Director as well as a part-time Pianist/Accompanist. If interested and for a job description, please send your resume to the Hiring Committee at [pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com).

## Conference Calendar

June 16 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm EDT  
[Live Harp Meditations for Ministers](#)

June 16 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm EDT  
[Commission on Ministry Meeting](#)

June 21 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT  
[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

**June 24 - June 25**  
**SEC UCC 56th Annual Meeting**

June 28 @ 9:30 am - 11:00 am EDT  
[Zoom Conversation for Specialized Ministers](#)

June 28 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

July 5 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

July 12 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

July 14 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EDT

[Board of Directors Meeting](#)

View the full calendar of events online: <https://www.secucc.org/events/>

## Contact Us

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